

Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation on Fisheries Issues Between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the United States of America and the Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs of Norway

Basic Instrument

The basic instrument establishing U.S.-Norway cooperation in fisheries and aquaculture is the *Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Cooperation on Fisheries Issues Between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the United States of America and the Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs of Norway*. The MOU became effective October 1, 2008, and expired on September 29, 2013. The two Parties intend to renew the MOU in 2014.

Members

The United States and Norway

Meetings

The Parties agreed that their designated representatives will meet annually, or as needed, alternating between the United States and Norway.

U.S. Representation

Pursuant to Article 2 of the MOU, the Parties established a Joint Committee. The Joint Committee consists of one Representative and advisors from each Party. The Representative for NOAA will be the Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Affairs or his designee, as appropriate. The Representative for the Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs will be the Secretary General, or his designee, as appropriate.

Description

The general purpose of the MOU is to strengthen and encourage cooperation between the United States and Norway on fisheries and other living marine resources, and ecosystem matters. Norway belongs to a number of international organizations to which the United States is also a member, including the International Whaling Commission, the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization, the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization, and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. Thus, there are many areas of joint interest and concern regarding living marine resources.

Recent Activities

The 4th (most recent) U.S.-Norway Joint Committee on Fisheries was hosted by the Norwegian Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs in Oslo on September 13-14, 2012. Sam Rauch, NMFS Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, and Russell Smith, NOAA Deputy Assistant Administrator for International Fisheries co-led the U.S. delegation, which consisted of NMFS, Department of State, and U.S. Embassy representatives. Mr. Arne Røksund, Secretary General, Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs, led the Norwegian delegation, which included officials from the Ministry, the Institute for Marine Research, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Paul Niemeier, NMFS Office of International Affairs, and Mr. Richard Pedersen, Royal Embassy of Norway in the United States, were meeting Co-Facilitators.

Both sides presented updates on national fisheries developments since the last meeting in 2011. Other topics discussed were cooperation in the United Nations (UN), UN Food and Agriculture Organization, and regional fisheries management organizations; fishing regulations and catch control measures; trade; and Arctic fisheries management. A one-day seminar on marine recreational fisheries management topped off a very productive meeting.

Future Meetings: The United States agreed to host the 5th Joint Committee Meeting in Silver Spring, Maryland, on November 7-8, 2013. Unfortunately, the meeting had to be postponed until 2014. The location will not likely change, but the new date has not yet been determined.

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